

## House Resolution 1897

By: Representatives Williams of the 178<sup>th</sup>, Morris of the 155<sup>th</sup>, Kaiser of the 59<sup>th</sup>, Dobbs of the 53<sup>rd</sup>, Dempsey of the 13<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the harmful and unintended consequences of the use of the term "mental  
2 retardation" and resolving to refrain from the use of this term in future speech and legislation;  
3 and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the term "mental retardation," while having a clinical meaning to professionals  
5 in the medical and educational fields, has devolved into an insulting, degrading, and even  
6 hateful term for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families; and

7 WHEREAS, hurtful classifications such as moron, imbecile, and retard are used in casual  
8 speech and have no place in today's society; and

9 WHEREAS, it is estimated that one in ten families are affected by developmental disabilities  
10 in the United States; and

11 WHEREAS, studies show that the language used to describe or classify a person often  
12 directly correlates to that individual's treatment and perception by others in daily life; and

13 WHEREAS, people with developmental disabilities can learn, hold jobs, contribute to their  
14 households and society, and lead productive and fulfilled lives; and

15 WHEREAS, individuals with developmental disabilities are valued friends, loved family  
16 members, and productive members of their communities; and

17 WHEREAS, people with developmental disabilities are entitled to the dignity and respect  
18 due to all of Georgia's citizens.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
20 the members of this body recognize the hurtful and unintended consequences of the use of

21 the term and classification "mental retardation" and resolve to replace this term with the term  
22 "developmental disabilities" in future speech and legislation.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
24 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to members of the public and  
25 the press.